

Grade Four Unit Outline Example

Grade Four Focus: United States Studies

	September
Unit Title	What is a Region
Big Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A region is place that shares common characteristics with other places. • Regions experience change over time. • Knowing about one place in a region can help us to know about other places in the same region.
Focus and Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a region? • Why is the concept of “region” useful? • How can we describe regions? • What tools can we use to describe a region? • What can maps tell us about regions? • What characteristics push people out of a region; or pull people into a region? • What are the consequences of human habitation of a region?
GLCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G1.0.1 Asking geographic questions • H3.0.7 Underground Railroad (historical example) • H3.0.8 Protecting natural resources • G1.0.5 Climate/elevation • G4.0.2 Impact of immigration • H3.0.1 Michigan regions (major industries) • G2.0.1 Physical and human characteristics of Great Lakes Region • G2.0.2 Describe a region
	October /November
Unit Title	A Region: The Industrial North East
Big Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People migrated and immigrated to the North Eastern United States for jobs associated with the production of goods and the extraction of natural resources. • Michigan mines, forests, and industrial centers attracted workers from around the United States and world. • The location of an early industry-automobile production- was influenced by Michigan’s location and natural and human resources. • Push and pull factors attracted immigrants to Michigan and the North East region. • The geography of the North Eastern United States facilitated the production of steel in many locations. • Heavy industry in the North Eastern states had effects on the environment.
Focus and Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do people move? • How do humans change the environment? • How did the geography of the North Eastern United States affect its development over time? • What makes the North Eastern United States a region?
GLCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E1.0.1 Ask economic questions • E1.0.5 Specialization and the division of labor • E2.0.1 Unemployment • H3.0.6 Primary and secondary sources: auto industry, labor movement • G2.0.2 Human and physical characteristics of Great Lakes Region • E1.0.7 Circular Flow

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H3.0.1 Historical inquiry questions • H3.0.4 Stories, photos to compare life in Great Lakes Region in different time periods • G5.0.1 Positive and negative effects of human activity • H3.0.5 Compare Michigan's economic activity today with the past • H3.0.3 Location of natural and human resources and location of industries and cities • H3.0.2 Migration and immigration • G2.0.1 Describe a region • G1.0.2 Cardinal and intermediate direction • G1.0.3 Characteristics and purposes of geographic tools • G4.0.1 Case study of push/pull factors • H3.0.9 Create timelines
	December
Unit Title	The United States as an Economic Region
Big Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public goods and services are provided by the government when it is more efficient than to have them provided by private businesses. • Capital, labor and resources are provided by three segments of society.
Focus and Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does circular flow mean? • What is flowing or moving in the circular flow model? • How are households, businesses, and the government connected? • How are the purposes of government fulfilled when taxes are used for public goods and services? • How are basic economic questions answered in a market economy? • How does the circular flow model move resources, capital and labor between regions?
GLCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E1.0.1 Identify Economic Questions • E1.0.7 Circular flow • E1.0.8 Public Goods (Mackinac Bridge) • E1.0.2 Characteristics of a Market Economy • C3.0.7 taxes and spending to serve the purposes of government • C1.0.3 Purposes of Government
	January
Unit Title	A World Wide Region: Market Economies
Big Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan, the United States, and the World can be divided into similar regions • Countries with market economies can comprise a single region. • Maps and geographic technologies are used to communicate data about regions.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does geography influence the location of economic regions? • How are market economies throughout the world similar? • What are some of the economic regions of the United States? • What characteristics do market economies share?
GLCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G1.0.1 Geographic questions • G1.0.2 Cardinal and intermediate directions • G1.0.3 Characteristics and purposes of geographic tools • G1.0.4 Geographic technologies

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G1.0.5 Maps • G2.0.1 Regions of the United States • G2.0.2 Compare human and physical characteristics between regions • C1.0.2 Consequences of having no rules • C2.0.1 Principles of the Bill of Rights • E1.0.1 Economic questions • E1.0.2 Characteristics of a market economy • E3.0.1 Global competition • H3.0.1 Economic activities in Michigan • H3.0.3 Location of resources in Michigan
	February
Unit Title	Michigan is a Political Region
Big Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michigan is a political region. • All 50 states share common characteristics with each other. • Michigan's population enabled statehood.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a political region? • What kind of political regions do we have within Michigan? • Why is government necessary? • How can the power of government be limited?
GLCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H3.0.2 Migration/immigration/population and growth • H3.0.3 Location and growth of cities • H3.0.4 Compare life during a variety of time periods • G1.0.2 Cardinal and intermediate directions • G1.0.3 Characteristics and purposes of geographic tools • G1.0.4 Geographic Tools and Technologies • G1.0.5 Use maps • G2.0.1 United States Regions (Northwest Territories) • G4.0.1 Case study about migration (Opening of the Erie Canal) • C1.0.1 Questions of political scientist • C1.0.2 Consequences on no government • C1.0.3 Purpose of government • C2.0.1 Principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights • C2.0.2 Guaranteed Rights • C3.0.1 Limits on government power • C3.0.2 Federal powers and state powers • C5.0.1 Responsibilities of citizenship • C5.0.2 Relationship between rights and responsibilities • C5.0.3 Explain why rights have limits • C5.0.4 Working together to promote principles and values

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	March
Unit Title	Governing the Political Region Known as the United States of America
Big Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments are constituted to maintain order and protect the rights of citizens. • The federal government's power is limited by checks and balances and separation of powers between branches and power retained by the states. • Citizens are responsible for participation in their government.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do we have government? • Where does the power in a representative democracy come from? • Why is it important to limit the power of government? • How are the rights of individuals protected? • How do we pay for public goods and services?
GLCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1.0.2 Consequences of no government • C1.0.3 Purpose of government • C2.0.1 Principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights • C2.0.2 Guaranteed Rights • C3.0.1 Limits on government power • C3.0.2 Federal powers and state powers • C3.0.3 Organizational Structure of the National Government • C3.0.4 How the powers are separated amongst branches • C3.0.5 Checks and Balances • C3.0.6 Power conferred to elected and appointed individuals • C3.0.7 Taxing and spending • C5.0.1 Responsibilities of citizenship • C5.0.2 Relationship between rights and responsibilities • C5.0.3 Explain why rights have limits • C5.0.4 Working together to promote principles and values • E1.0.7 Circular flow
	April
Unit Title	Resources Make Connections Within and Between Regions
Big Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary exchange (trade) occurs only when all participating parties expect to gain. • People respond predictably to incentives. • Productive resources are limited. • Unemployment imposes costs on individuals and nations. • Productive resources are limited.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of government in a market economy? • Why do people engage in trade? • What role do incentives play in a market economy? • How does a market economy deal with the fact that productive resources are limited?
GLCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H3.0.3 Natural and Human resources • H3.0.5 Compare economic activity • H3.0.9 Timelines • G1.0.1 Geographic questions • G1.0.2 Cardinal and intermediate directions

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G2.0.1 Regions • G2.0.2 Compare regions • G4.0.1 Migration push/pull • C1.02 Consequences for an absence of government • C3.02 State power • C5.0.2 Rights have limits • E1.0.3 Incentives influence behavior • E1.0.4 Price affects decision making • E1.0.5 Specialization • E1.0.7 Circular flow • E2.0.1 Unemployment
	May
Unit Title	Citizens in All Regions of the United States have Rights and Responsibilities
Big Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens have both rights and responsibilities. • Rights have limits. • Rights need to be protected.
Essential Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the rights of citizens in the United States? • What are responsibilities of Citizens? • How are the rights of citizens protected? • Why do rights need protection? • How do citizens work together to promote values and beliefs protected by the Constitution and important writings of the nation?
GLCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1.0.2 Consequences of no government • C1.0.3 Purpose of government • C2.0.1 Principles of the Constitution and Bill of Rights • C2.0.2 Guaranteed Rights • C3.0.1 Limits on government power • C3.0.2 Federal powers and state powers • C3.0.3 Organizational Structure of the National Government • C3.0.4 How the powers are separated amongst branches • C3.0.5 Checks and Balances • C3.0.6 Power conferred to elected and appointed individuals • C3.0.7 Taxing and spending • C5.0.1 Responsibilities of citizenship • C5.0.2 Relationship between rights and responsibilities • C5.0.3 Explain why rights have limits • C5.0.4 Working together to promote principles and values • H3.0.7 Case studies Underground Railroad • H3.0.8 Threats to natural resources • H3.0.9 Timelines